

North Dakota Outdoor Heritage Fund Application December 2013

Applicant: **Watford City Park Board**
Federal Tax ID# 45-6006424
Contact Person/Title Cari Liebel, President 701-842-2287
Address 213 2nd St. NE (City Hall)
Watford City, ND 58854
E-mail Address bliebel@rtc.coop or Leah Voll, Sec./Treas. jlvoll@ruggedwest.com
Phone 701-842-2287 (Carolyn)
Co-Applicant McKenzie Bay Marine Club
Keith Backes, President, klbackes@yahoo.com, 701-570-1710

MAJOR Directive A. Provide access to private and public lands for sportsmen, including projects that create fish and wildlife habitat and provide access for sportsmen. This project also contributes to Directive D, supporting the further development of a recreation area.

Type of organization Political Subdivision
Project Name 2013 Paving Project, McKenzie Bay Recreation Area

Summary

This project requests \$340,000 for paving three miles of access road into the McKenzie Bay Recreation Area located in Dunn County, North Dakota along the southwest shores of Lake Sakakawea.

<i>Total Project Costs</i>	\$995,084
<i>Amount of Grant request</i>	\$340,000
<i>Amount of Matching Funds</i>	\$655,084
<i>Source(s) of Matching Funds</i>	
Dunn County	\$500,000 (received)
McKenzie County	\$100,000 (received)
McKenzie Bay Marine Club	\$ 55,084*(received)

* The Three Affiliated Tribes waived the TARO fees of approximately \$27,000.

Certifications

I certify that this application has been made with the support of the governing body and chief executive of my organization.

I certify that if awarded grant funding, none of the funding will be used for any of the exemptions noted on Page 1 of the application instructions.

I certify that a project budget will be sent to the Commission.

scanned copy of this page with Carolyn Liebel's signature is included in the email.

Carolyn Liebel, Chairperson, Watford City Park Board

Date

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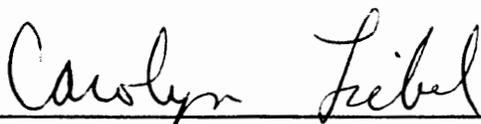
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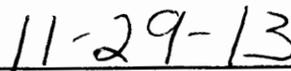
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Chairperson, Watford City Park Board



Date

Narrative

Organization Information – (no more than 300 words)

The Army Corp of Engineers leases the McKenzie Bay Recreation Area to the Watford City Park Board. The Park Board subleases this area to the McKenzie Bay Marine Club, an incorporated organization registered in North Dakota.

The McKenzie Bay Recreation Area is the only full service recreation area along this stretch of Lake Sakakawea. The marina has full facilities for the public including concessions, food, fuel, bait, camping sites, boat ramps, sewage and garbage disposal and a fish cleaning station. This facility is vitally important to thousands of recreationists and campers annually. In addition, there are over 300 seasonal homes that use these services including the lake communities of McKenzie Bay, Elmer's Point and Mosset Bay.

The McKenzie Bay Marine Club members arrange for these services in exchange for 50 leased cabin sites from the Corp of Engineers. The Club pays an amount annually to Dunn County in lieu of taxes and another \$19,000 annually in lease fees to the Corp of Engineers.

This successful relationship has been in place for over 50 years. Each spring, a work day is held in which the Club membership cleans the shoreline, installs boat docks, fixes fences, installs safety barriers, provides road maintenance, and paints the facilities. They clean the toilets, fish cleaning station and campgrounds. Throughout the summer, the members frequently respond to requests to address immediate needs within the recreation area and for its continued improvement. Recently, their efforts and funding have provided for potable water from the Fort Berthold Water System.

The Marine Club has a seven person board that maintains the leases, oversees the work, pays the bills, secures the Concessionaire, and provides for the overall operation of the club and the recreation site. Each resident pays an annual fee of \$1,000 plus project assessments as leveraged.

Purpose of Grant

Access to Lake Sakakawea has been a huge issue since the dam was built and the area flooded. Terrain is unstable and hilly. Construction in these remote areas is very costly. The inclusion of the Corp of Engineers, land owners and the Three Affiliated Tribes in the implementation of access projects is always difficult. Over five decades, the Watford City Park Board and the McKenzie Bay Marine Club have worked through these obstacles to improve access to the McKenzie Bay Recreation Area.

It is important to note that some private lakeside camping areas have converted recreation facilities to long-term energy related camping and RV sites. **In a recent McKenzie County community planning session, residents agreed diminishing access to Lake Sakakawea has affected their quality of life in the county.**

Road costs are the single most costly and most reoccurring issue for this recreation area. The McKenzie Bay Marine Club provides the project direction, labor and gravel. They have purchased and maintained a grader and provide other rented machinery for road work. In most instances, the membership mans the shovels and drives the machinery. In larger road projects, they arrange for funding, bidding the improvements and provide oversight of the road work.

In 1996, the Marine Club membership paid to construct the first graded road with help from Dunn County. In 2008, the main road was substantially reconstructed and a Base One surface was applied at a cost of \$800,000. This was made possible by a partnership between the Marine Club, Dunn County, McKenzie County, the North Dakota Game & Fish, the North Dakota Department of Transportation Special Road Fund, and the Army Corps of Engineers. In addition, an assessment was paid by the Marine Club Membership.

In 2010 and 2011, the Marine Club installed seal coats and patch work for the main access road amounting to approximately \$200,000 funded completely by the Club membership.

In 2012 & 2013, the roads sustained critical damage due to heavy rains, increased traffic, heavier traffic and some flooding which resulted in extremely soft road conditions.

The McKenzie Bay Marine Club had planned to asphalt the three-mile main road sometime in the future as funding allowed. However, they were strongly advised to apply at least a 3" layer of asphalt now as the road base had begun to deteriorate. Without paving, they would be running the risk of the base work being completely destroyed. Estimates for the paving project were in excess of \$1.3 million.

Those companies estimating the project told the Marine Club the best avenue was to approach a paving company already working in the area which they did. If the Marine Club had waited, the same work and added subsurface work would tally \$3 million as early as 2014. Doing it now or waiting – either way – the cost was well beyond the capacity of the resident membership and the usual partnerships they enjoy. The need to act also *prevented* requests to some previously supportive partners like the North Dakota Fish & Game Department and the Department of Transportation. These requests would have needed to be approved prior to beginning the project.

The cost for the August 2013 asphalt paving was \$995,084 and completed by Duininck, Inc., a Minnesota based paving company working on Highway 22 near the recreation area.

Management of Project

Successful management of the recreation area is planned and provided by the McKenzie Bay Marine Club. The Marine Club has a diverse membership of business men and women whose skills are utilized in decisions and implementation efforts. Engineering of projects is usually in conjunction with Dunn County and the engineering services used by them. Five-year plans are submitted to the Watford City Park Board.

Evaluation

Prior to the contract signing, the paving company was endorsed by engineering companies and NDDOT staff as being a dependable and very competent contractor.

The paving project was very successful and is a great improvement to access to the recreation area. Duininck, Inc. was just completing their Highway 22 project and had excess material which resulted in a base in excess of the three inch lift as contracted. The Marine Club Board & membership are very satisfied with the work.

Financial Information

Budget Request Form

Project Expense	OHF Request	Applicant's Match Share (Cash)	Applicant's Match Share (In-Kind)	Applicant's Match Share (Indirect) Not used match	Other Project Sponsor's Share (Cash)
Paving Costs	\$340,000	\$ 55,084 McKenzie Bay Marine Club	\$	Three Affiliated Tribes -Taro Fees Waived	\$500,000 Dunn County
Total Project Costs	\$340,000 (34%)	\$55,084 (6%)	\$	\$27,000	\$100,000 McKenzie County \$600,000 (60%)

Sustainability

Without a doubt, the paving of the main road is the *single largest project* the McKenzie Bay Marine Club will undertake. Finding the funding to pay for this project is the best avenue to the sustainability of the road and the recreation area.

With this large debt, \$340,000 @ 4% interest, the Marine Club will be on a very tight budget. This will affect the roads and facilities they now operate for at least ten years.

Additional road assessments would have to be levied to the 50 cabin residents. This would be in addition to the \$200,000 already directly paid by the Club members in the just the last three years plus their work, time and labor for road projects. Other recreation areas don't appear to assess individuals for public access at all.

In regards to the newly paved main road, a seal & chip coat will be needed within the next two to five years.

Partial Funding

Should this project receive less than requested, the Marine Club will continue its efforts for project support from other sources but at this point, there are few avenues remaining. The Watford City Park Board sincerely hopes the Outdoor Heritage Fund approves this request. The work was completed after the Outdoor Fund was established and after the new biennium began. The paving project is clearly for improving public access to a well-known and well used recreation area. Your assistance would be greatly appreciated.



P.O. Box 309 | Garrison, North Dakota | 58540 | friends@lakesakakawea.com | www.lakesakakawea.com

Letter of support for the Outdoor Heritage Fund Application of Watford City Park Board/McKenzie Bay Marine Club

The Friends of Lake Sakakawea appreciate this opportunity to write a letter of support for the Watford City Park Board/McKenzie Bay Marine Club Outdoor Heritage application. The \$340,000 would be used to cover the cost to pave three miles of access road into the McKenzie Bay Recreation Area, along the southwest shores of Lake Sakakawea in Dunn County.

Our organization is well versed in the roadway and access issues to McKenzie Bay. Improving such roadways has been on our wish list before the 2009, 2011 and 2013 North Dakota Legislature to try to secure funding for such projects that provide access to well-traveled recreation sites within the state. This region attracts many tourists and area residents, and in more recent years is a busy corridor for oil traffic. Some private lakeside camping areas were recently converted from recreation facilities to long-term energy related camping and RV sites; this expands the use of the road from seasonal to year-long use.

While Dunn and McKenzie counties enjoy a surge in revenue with many new residents, the counties are challenged to try to keep up the roads in high oil traffic regions. The roadway that is the subject of this grant application took a beating from heavier traffic and flooding in 2012-2013. Although the state spends millions to court tourists to our state and we promote the beauty and bounty of the region to guests and residents alike, roadways to recreation sites may bring them once, but not for a repeat visit if it is a negative experience.

The McKenzie Bay Marine Club spent a lot of their own money over 50 years to develop and maintain this roadway. Over the years, private donations were partnered with funds from North Dakota Department of Transportation, Dunn County, McKenzie County, North Dakota Game & Fish, and the Corps of Engineers, but it wasn't enough. Today the infrastructure needs in the state are so great that outside funding sources are difficult to obtain for costly road construction.

The Outdoor Heritage funds would be used to support a **public** use area that is open to the **public** for recreation with full **public** facilities and is the only **public** use area with full facilities in Dunn County.

Please give this application your strong support.

Sincerely,

Friends of Lake Sakakawea Board of Directors

Terry Fleck, chairman; Michael Gunsch, vice chairman; Clarence Weltz, treasurer; Jill Denning Gackle, secretary; Larry Kerzman; Emmanuel Stroh; Bob Valeu; Corey Praryzek; Eric Jaeger; Marie Johnson; Jim Mossett; Blair Ihmels; Kelly Sorge; Daryl Hill and David Johnson.